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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 247, 450

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. You've heard the opening on LB 450. Open for discussion on that motion. There are no lights on. Senator Wehrbein waives the opportunity to close. The question before the body is, shall LB 450 advance to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. We're voting on advancement of LB 450. Have you all voted on the issue who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 38 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 450.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 450 does advance. Mr. Clerk, LB 247.

CLERK: LB 247, by Senator Baker. (Read title.) Introduced on January 10, referred to the Transportation Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Baker, to open on LB 247.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President, members. LB 247 is intended to clarify the Public Service Commission's existing power to revoke, suspend, or modify the certificates, permits, registrations, licenses, and authorities within its jurisdiction. Under its grant of authority, the commission has the power to revoke or otherwise modify an authority within its jurisdiction. The commission simply believed that by passing this bill it would make their authority explicit in the statutory language, and it will alleviate any potential problems. A very simple concept; they have this power, they simply want to clarify it. And think it would, as I said...any potential problems would hopefully go away, because it specifies that the authority over competitive natural gas providers, if in violation of statutes, and so on, would be under their jurisdiction. They have that power now. And it's nothing to do with the natural gas wars I understand are going on. It's simply clarifying what they already have authority to do. I'd be glad to answer any questions.